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Client Matter No. 80168.0246
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

<p>Serial No. 10/023,361</p> <p>Application of: Francis M. Wilkinson, Alan John Davis, Bart Dijkstra</p> <p>Filed: December 14, 2001</p> <p>Art Unit: 2165</p> <p>Examiner: Pardo, Thuy N.</p> <p>Attorney Docket No. P6468</p> <p>For: SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING ACCESS TO AND GENERATION OF LOCALIZED APPLICATION VALUES</p>	<p>Confirmation No.: 2820</p> <p>Customer No.: 32658</p>
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June 30, 2005
Date

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TRANSMITTAL OF BRIEF ON APPEAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.192

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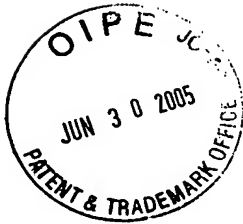
Sir:

Please find enclosed an original Brief on Appeal and three copies for the above application. Also, please find enclosed a check in the amount of \$500.00. Any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

June 30, 2005

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APPELLANTS' BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR 1.192

I. Real Party in Interest

Sun Microsystems, Inc.
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USA

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

No other appeals or interferences are currently known to Appellants that will directly affect, be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the decision to be rendered by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in the present appeal.

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III. Status of Claims

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-19, and 21 are pending in the application. No claims have been allowed.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-19, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,026,474 (“Carter”) in view of U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 2002/0156917 (“Nye”).

IV. Status of Amendments

All the claim amendments have been entered. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-19, and 21 as pending are provided in the Appendix of Claims on Appeal.

V. Summary of the Invention

As discussed in Appellants’ Background at page 1, lines 30-35, the invention is addressing the need for software applications running on networked devices to use environmental variables or properties and other data that is often “localized” to a particular user and/or to a particular geographic location and language. Prior to the invention, techniques for retrieving localized data typically required the “application to be aware of the location and/or identification of localization information” (see page 2, lines 8-15) and, at least in many cases, required that an application be shutdown or restarted to update to new values (see, page 2, lines 27-33). Further, prior techniques failed to support inheritance of values which resulted in storage of duplicate and often conflicting localized values in a file at each networked device or local to such device (see page 2, lines 16-26).

With these problems in mind, an example of how the present invention addresses these and other problems associated with prior systems is provided in the paragraph beginning at line 5 of page 24. In this example, it is seen that a localized application value such as a piece of text for a web page may have a different value depending upon which language is associated with a user and where that user is physically located when accessing the application. The invention as claimed provides

an effective technique for accessing such data throughout a network regardless of location while making a user's experience with an application consistent and personalized to the user (e.g., an application will appear and act typically will behave similarly in diverse locations used to access a network/application).

More specifically, with reference to Appellants' Summary and the figures, the invention provides a localized value control system that includes an interface 20 (or 62) linked to an application 16 that is operable to obtain sets of pre-localized values. The values are extracted by the interface 20 from one or more central repositories 50 of localized values 54. Each value repository 50 includes a library 54 of named localized elements indexed by the applications that utilize the elements, which allows the interface 20 to retrieve the correct set of localized values for a particular application 16. The repository 50 also includes localized values 54 for each localizable element indexed by geographical area, language, or localization criteria to enable the interface 20 to select an appropriate localized value for an element based on a specific combination of localization criteria (such as a particular combination of language and geographical area).

In one embodiment, a hierarchical structure of geographical areas and a list of languages used in each geographical area are used to control the process of selecting the appropriate localized value, e.g., see Figure 3 and support text beginning on page 24, line 5. According to another aspect of the invention, each interface 20 maintains recently used application values in a local memory (such as a fully normalized cache) 34 (or 76) to provide rapid access to the application 16. The local memory 34 is preferably kept current and consistent with the repository 50 by a background modification process 28 that monitors the repository 50 for changes to relevant values and updates the local memory values 36.

In this manner, the present invention is operable to address numerous problems with prior methods of accessing localized application values and data. The localized value control system is useful for supplying different types of localized application data ranging from simple text strings and property values to localized pages that combine many simpler localized values, e.g., by using localized XSL

stylesheets. The system is operable to supply dynamic and consistent localized values to an application without requiring the application to be stopped or restarted to update or add values. The system supports sharing of localized values among applications and allows non-technical staff to modify localized values with access being controlled by assigned user roles that may vary by geographical area (i.e., a user may have more than one user role within the system).

The system preferably supports the concept of inheritance of values from one application to another application unless overridden to localize the value, which is described at least with reference to Figure 3 at the paragraph at page 24, line 5. For example, a worldwide support telephone number may be inherited and in some applications, overridden locally to provide a telephone number useful in a particular geographic region. In the system, the application simply requests a set of values from the interface which operates to retrieve the appropriate localized application values from the local memory or central repository. Further, the system is operable to allow one or more value to be released without modifying the entire set of application values. Performance is enhanced by defining sets or hierarchies of application values to allow sets of relevant values to be retrieved when a single value is requested by the application, i.e., the system anticipates the application's future needs for data by relating or linking at least a portion of the localized application values.

A more detailed explanation of the process performed by the interface 20 to return localized values is provided beginning at page 25, line 3 of Appellants' specification with reference to Figure 4. Population of localized values for applications is explained in more detail beginning at page 26, line 1 with reference to Figure 5. Figure 6 and the text beginning at page 27, line 23 explain the method of updating local memory or cache when the centralized repository values are changed. The invention also provides a method for selecting among various localized values that may be appropriate for a particular geographical area and/or language, and this method or "algorithm" is described in detail in Appellants' specification from page 33, line 25 to page 35, line 9. These detailed descriptions are not included in this brief

summary of the invention to retain the brevity and clarity of this Brief with reference being provide for the sake of completeness.

VI. Issues

1. Whether claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-19, and 21 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the teaching of Carter and Nye.

VII. Grouping of Claims

The claims were rejected in one group, i.e., Group I, as being unpatentable over the teaching of Carter and Nye. The following discussion provides a listing of claims which Appellants believe stand or fall separately or together with other claims.

Claim 1 and claims 3 and 8, which depend from claim 1, fall or stand as a group.

Claim 2, which depends from claim 1, falls separately from claims 1, 3, and 8. Claim 2 is separately patentable as it additionally calls for an update mechanism in the client device that monitors the localized application values “at the application value repository and to update the localized application values in the local memory.”

Claims 4 and 5, which depend from claim 1, fall separately from claims 1, 3, and 8. Claims 4 and 5 are directed to embodiments of the invention in which the localized application values may be included in an XML file and the repository may be used to store a stylesheet that combines with the XML file to produce a localized stylesheet. This feature is not shown by Carter or Nye.

Claim 7, which depends from claim 1, falls or stands separately from claim 1. Adding to the limitations of claim 1, claim 7 calls for the localized application values to include user roles which can vary based on geographical location and the retrieval by the administrative interface can vary based on the user role.

Independent claims 9 and 18 and claims 11, 12, and 14-17, which depend from claim 9, fall or stand together but separately from claims 1-5 and 8. Independent

claim 9 is directed to a method with limitations similar to that of claim 1. Additionally, claim 9 calls for the request from the application to include “an application name, a geographical area code, a language code, and at least one element name which are used in the retrieving steps to provide localized application values matching the geographical area code and the language code.” Independent claim 18 is directed to an interface for providing localized data to an application. Claim 18 includes limitations similar to those of claim 9, and the reasons provided for allowing claim 9 are believed equally applicable to claim 18.

Claim 13, which depends from claim 9, falls or stands separately from claim 9. In addition to the limitations of claim 9, claim 13 calls for populating to include obtaining a geographical hierarchy (see, for example, Figure 3) and populating a data structure for localized application values by beginning at a supplied geographical area node and progressing upward in the hierarchy.

Independent claim 19 falls or stands separately. Claim 19 is directed to a computer readable medium containing a data structure according to the Applicants’ invention. The data structure includes limitations similar to that of claim 1 and is believed allowable for the reasons for allowing claim 1. Further, claim 19 includes limitations similar to that of claim 13, and the reasons for allowing claim 13 over Carter and Nye are also believed applicable to claim 19.

Claim 21, which depends from claim 19, falls or stands separately from claim 19. Claim 21 adds to claim 19 the concept of user roles and access “based on the staged or released value.” This feature is not shown in Carter or Nye.

VIII. Argument

In the February 23, 2005 Office Action, claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter in view of Nye. In Appellants’ April 11, 2005 response, claims 6, 10, and 20 were canceled, and the rejection of pending claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-19, and 21 was traversed based mainly on the following remarks. The Advisory Action simply stated that “Applicant’s arguments have

already been addressed in the final rejection” but indicated that claim amendments were entered.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, and 8 based upon Carter and Nye under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is Improper.

Claim 1 is directed to a computer system for providing localized data to computing devices. The system includes a client device with a local memory for storing localized application values used by an application running on the client device and an administrative interface. The system further includes an application value repository that is linked to the client device via a communications network and that stores localized application values. The administrative interface is operable to receive a request from the application for application values and to respond “by selectively retrieving the localized application values corresponding to the request from the local memory and the application value repository, wherein the localized application values are selected based upon a geographical area and a language selection included in the request, and wherein the localized application values stored in the application value repository include property values.”

Further, as discussed in Appellants’ October 29, 2004 response, Carter provides no teaching on the use of localized application values or how such “localized” data should be retrieved for an application. More specifically, the February 23, 2005 Office Action cites Carter at “web cache, col. 2, lines 38-55; ab; fig. 7” for teaching storing localized application values used by the application. However, Carter generally teaches a system in which cache of local or client devices can be shared to create a much larger cache than would be available if each device could only use its own local memory or cache and in some cases, variables stored in such caches are shared across a network (see, for example, Carter at col. 27, lines 38-39, “The distribution file system 60 described above allows user 400 and user 420 to share their Internet browser caches” which is useful for sharing data/variables among users, too). Carter’s web cache does allow sharing of variables and local memory but fails to discuss “localized application values” being stored locally at a client device.

In other words, “localized” does not mean simply data that is locally stored (which is made clearer in further limitations discussed below).

More significantly, Carter fails to teach that an administrative interface is provided on the client device that responds to a request for application data by selectively retrieving localized application values either from the local memory or from an application value repository. The selection is done based on geographical area and language selection in the request by the administrative interface.

The February 23, 2005 Office Action points to Figure 9 for the repository of claim 1 but this reference is to a directory page of the Carter shared memory and does not teach storage of localized application values in a repository linked to client devices over a network. Further, the Office Action cites Carter at col. 20, lines 52-59 and at “ab; col. 5, lines 48 to col. 6, lines 10; col. 14, lines 21-51” for teaching selective retrieval of the localized application values based on the geographic area and language selection in the request. In col. 20, Carter discusses performing a memory operation which may be used to obtain data from the network shared web cache or the like, but Carter fails to teach retrieving localized application values based on geographic area and language. In cols. 5, 6, and 14, Carter discusses accessing a file system distributed across devices in a network but does not teach selectively retrieving localized application values from local memory or a repository or doing such retrieval based on a geographic area or language selection in the request. Hence, Carter does not teach or suggest each element of claim 1, and claim 1 is allowable over Carter.

The Response to Arguments portion of the February 23, 2005 Office Action asserts that Carter does teach use of “localized application values” with its teaching in the Abstract and Figures 2, 7, and 8 of “client-side web caching where browser applications have been stored.” However, as noted above, Carter’s web cache allows sharing of variables and local memory but fails to discuss “localized application values” being stored locally at a client device. Again, “localized” does not mean simply data that is locally stored. Nowhere in either of the two Office Actions has the Examiner addressed the need to find a reference that teaches “localized” application variables, and as a result, the Examiner has in effect impermissibly read this limitation out of the claims.

The Examiner also states in the Response to Arguments that claim 1 does not call for the localized application values to be stored at the client device. Applicants disagree as claim 1 calls for a client device comprising “a local memory for storing localized application values used by the application.” Further, Applicants disagree that the administrative interface is “inherent” in Carter because any interfaces shown in Carter do not assist applications in a client device with retrieving localized application values as asserted by the Examiner. Carter’s teaching in the Abstract and Figures 2, 7, and 8 do not show an application using localized application values and clearly does not show the client device configured with the administrative interface of claim 1.

Further, Carter clearly does not teach such selection should be based on a geographical area and a language selection in a request for data or that the localized application values stored in the application value repository include property values. The Office Action agrees with this interpretation of Carter and cites Nye for providing these additional limitations missing from Carter.

However, Nye fails to overcome the deficiencies of Nye. Nye is directed to an e-commerce method in which searching for retail items may be limited to particular geographic regions (see, for example, the portions of Nye cited by the Office Action at paragraphs [0029] and [0251]). Such teaching does not teach or suggest “retrieving the localized application values corresponding to the request from the local memory and the application repository, wherein the localized application values are selected based upon a geographical area” as called for in claim 1.

Instead, Nye teaches that computers are bound to geographic regions and sharing of documents and the like is done based on the location of the computer (see, the Nye Abstract). There is no teaching in Nye that an application in one of those geographic regions runs an application with differing application values from an application in another one of the geographic regions because the values are localized to suit the geographic regions. For this reason, Carter and Nye fail to teach the system of claim 1.

Similarly, Nye fails to teach “wherein the localized application values are selected based upon ... a language selection included in the request.” As discussed

above, Carter fails to explicitly teach use of localized application values by applications and how such values are to be provided to the applications. The Office Action cites Nye at para. [0227] for teaching this limitation. However, Nye at this citation is teaching that language can be a barrier in searching on the Internet and instead of using language a search can be better restricted by geography. Clearly, there is no suggestion in this paragraph (or elsewhere) that an application provides a request with a language selection that is used by an administrative interface to selectively retrieve localized application values from local memory and an application value repository. Hence, Nye fails to overcome the deficiencies of Carter, and the rejection of claim 1 is improper based on the combined teachings of Carter and Nye.

Yet further, claim 1 as amended calls for the localized application values to include property values. Carter is cited at col. 22, lines 10-19 and col. 23, lines 52-57 for providing this teaching. At col. 22, lines 10-29, Carter is discussing operation of a flow scheduler 272” and provides no teaching of including property values for use by an application in localized application values. At col. 23, lines 52-57, Carter is describing a directory manager but provides no suggestion of the claim limitation. For this additional reason, claim 1 is not shown or suggested by Carter, and Nye fails to overcome this additional deficiency of Carter. Claims 3 and 8 depend from claim 1 and are believed allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Rejection of Claim 2 Based upon Carter and Nye under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is Improper.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is believed allowable as depending from allowable base claim. Further, claim 2 calls for an update mechanism in the client device that monitors the localized application values “at the application value repository and to update the localized application values in the local memory.” The February 23, 2005 Office Action cites Carter at col. 9, lines 15-28 for teaching this limitation, but at this citation, Carter shows directory updates and provides no discussion of localized application values. Further, Carter fails to show monitoring a repository for modifications and when detected, updating locally stored localized application values. For these reasons, the rejection of claim 2 as obvious in light of Carter and Nye is unsupported and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 4 and 5 Based upon Carter and Nye under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is Improper.

Claims 4 and 5, which depend from claim 1, are believed allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. Further, claims 4 and 5 are directed to embodiments of the invention in which the localized application values may be included in an XML file and the repository may be used to store a stylesheet that combines with the XML file to produce a localized stylesheet. The February 23, 2005 Office Action cites Carter at col. 26, line 60 to col. 27, line 13, but Carter at this point is simply stating that stored files may be HTML files but provides no suggestion that localized application values may be stored in an XML file or that a stylesheet stored at a repository can be used to produce a localized stylesheet. For these additional reasons, claims 4 and 5 are believed allowable over Carter and Nye.

Rejection of Claim 7 Based upon Carter and Nye (and Beurket) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is Improper.

Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and is believed allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. The February 23, 2005 Office Action cites an additional reference, i.e., Beurket (U.S. Pat. No. 6,360,273), in an attempt to overcome deficiencies with Carter and Nye. However, as discussed in Appellants' October 29, 2004 response, Beurket fails to overcome the deficiencies of Carter discussed previously with reference to claim 1. Particularly, Beurket fails to teach selective retrieval of localized application values based on geographic and language information included in an application data request. The Response to Argument fails to address Applicants' assertion regarding Beurket and claim 1 but, yet, the February 23, 2005 Office Action retained the rejection of claim 7.

Expanding on claim 1, claim 7 calls for the localized application values to include user roles which can vary based on geographical location and the retrieval by the administrative interface can vary based on the user role. The February 23, 2005 Office Action cites Beurket for teaching this limitation, but Appellants could find no discussion in Beurket of a "user role" or that such a role may vary based on geographical location. Because the teaching of Carter and Nye in view of Beurket

fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 7, the rejection of claim 7 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 9, 11, 12, and 14-18 Based upon Carter and Nye under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is Improper.

Independent claim 9 is directed to a method with limitations similar to that of claim 1 and is believed allowable at least for the reasons for allowing claim 1. Further, claim 9 calls for the request from the application to include “an application name, a geographical area code, a language code, and at least one element name which are used in the retrieving steps to provide localized application values matching the geographical area code and the language code.” In rejecting claim 9, the February 23, 2005 Office Action simply refers to the rejection of claim 1 but provides no citation to teaching in Carter or Nye of codes for a geographical area and a language in combination with an element name to assist in retrieving localized application values. Because this limitation is not provided in claim 1 and the rejection of claim 9 is said to be for the reasons provided for rejecting claim 1, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been stated for claim 9 as all limitations have not been shown to be present in the cited references. For these reasons, claim 9 is believed allowable over the combined teachings of Carter and Nye.

Claims 11, 12, and 14-17 depend from claim 9 and are believed allowable at least for the reasons for allowing claim 9.

Independent claim 18 is directed to an interface for providing localized data to an application. Claim 18 includes limitations similar to those of claim 9, and the reasons provided for allowing claim 9 are believed equally applicable to claim 18.

Rejection of Claim 13 Based upon Carter and Nye under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is Improper.

Claim 13 depends from claim 9 and is believed allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. Further, claim 13 calls for populating to include obtaining a geographical hierarchy (see, for example, Appellants’ Figure 3) and populating a data structure for localized application values by beginning at a supplied geographical area

node and progressing upward in the hierarchy. As stated in Appellants' October 29, 2004 response, the July 29, 2004 and later Office Action merely state that the limitations of claim 13 were addressed in earlier analysis of the Office Action. See page 5 of the February 23, 2005 Office Action at the last sentence of Para. 4 which states "As to claims 8, 10, 12, 13, and 19-21, all limitations of these claims have been addressed in the analysis above, and these claims are rejected on that basis."

However, claim 13 is the first claim to specifically call for data structure populating using a geographical hierarchy. Appellants have reviewed Carter and Nye but could find no mention of such populating or the use of a geographical hierarchy to create a data structure for localized application values. Hence, in addition to the reasons provided for allowing claim 9, claim 13 is believed allowable because a *prima facie* case of obviousness as required under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has not been properly made by the Examiner as each and every element has not been shown to be taught or suggested by any of the cited references.

Rejection of Claim 19 Based upon Carter and Nye under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is Improper.

Independent claim 19 is directed to a computer readable medium containing a data structure according to the Appellants' invention. The data structure includes limitations similar to that of claim 1 and is believed allowable for the reasons for allowing claim 1. Further, claim 19 includes limitations similar to that of claim 13, and the reasons for allowing claim 13 over Carter and Nye are believed applicable to claim 19. Appellants' specifically requested in their April 11, 2005 response that the Examiner provide specific citations for teaching "wherein each of the element values comprises a localized value for a node in a tree structure in which each of the nodes corresponds to a combination of a geographical area, a supported language, and a staged or released value" or withdraw the rejection of claim 19. The Advisory Action provided no such citations. For these reasons, Appellants argue that an obviousness rejection of claim 19 based on the teachings of Carter and Nye is not proper and the rejection of claim 19 should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 21 Based upon Carter and Nye under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is Improper.

Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and adds the concept of user roles and access “based on the staged or released value.” The Examiner has provided no citation in any of the Office Actions for this concept of the invention, and hence, claim 21 is allowable because a *prima facie* case of obviousness was not presented by the Examiner.

Conclusion

In view of all of the above, claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-19, and 21 are believed to be allowable and the case in condition for allowance. Appellants respectfully request that the Examiner’s rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §103 be reversed for all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 30, 2005



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IX. APPENDIX OF CLAIMS ON APPEAL

1. A computer system for providing localized application data to computing devices linked to a data communications network, comprising:

a client device linked to the communications network including a running application, an administrative interface in communication with the application and the communications network, and a local memory for storing localized application values used by the application; and

an application value repository linked to the communications network for storing localized application values used by the computing devices;

wherein the administrative interface is operable to receive a request from the application for application values and to respond by selectively retrieving the localized application values corresponding to the request from the local memory and the application value repository, wherein the localized application values are selected based upon a geographical area and a language selection included in the request, and wherein the application localized values stored in the application value repository include property values.

2. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the client device further includes an update mechanism operable to monitor the localized application values at the application value repository and to update the localized application values in the local memory.

3. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the localized application values stored in the local memory are selected based on prior requests from the application and are removed from the local memory when a last accessed time parameter indicates a period of inactivity has been exceeded.

4. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the client device further includes a mechanism operable to generate a localized eXtensible Markup Language (XML) file comprising at least a portion of the localized application values.

5. The computer system of claim 4, wherein the application value repository further stores a stylesheet that is adapted for combining with the XML file to produce a localized stylesheet.

6. (canceled)

7. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the localized application values include user roles indicating data access levels for users of the application, the user roles being localized to allow variation based on geographical locations selected by the users of the application and being used by the administrative interface in the selective retrieving of the localized application values.

8. The computer system of claim 1, further comprising a second client device linked to the communications network running the application, wherein users of the second client device select different geographical areas than the client device and wherein the localized application values retrieved by the second client device from the application value repository differ from the localized application values retrieved by the client device based on the different geographical areas.

9. A method in a computer system for controlling generation of and access to localized application data, comprising:

receiving a request for application data from an application;

determining if localized application values corresponding to the request are present in local memory of the computer system;

when determined present, retrieving the localized application values from the local memory;

when determined not present, retrieving the localized application values from an application value repository; and

returning retrieved localized application values to the application;

wherein the request includes an application name, a geographical area code, a language code, and at least one element name which are used in the retrieving steps to provide localized application values matching the geographical area code and the language code.

10. (canceled)

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising when not present, creating an empty data structure, populating the data structure with the localized application values from the repository, and storing the populated data structure in the local memory.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the data structure includes a list of element values appropriate for application name, geographical area, and language information provided in the request.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the populating includes obtaining a geographical hierarchy from the repository and checking nodes in the geographical hierarchy for the listed element values beginning at a node corresponding to the supplied geographical area and language information and moving upward to and ending at a top node.

14. The method of claim 9, further including updating the localized application values in the local memory to reflect modifications to the localized application variables in the application value repository.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the updating is performed at a time when the updating is determined to not affect performance of the application as perceived by a user of the application.

16. The method of claim 9, further including constructing a data structure from the retrieved localized application values and storing the constructed data structure.

17. The method of claim 16, further including monitoring for changes in the localized application values corresponding to the retrieved localized application values and repeating the constructing after a change is identified in the monitoring to create a refreshed data structure.

18. An interface for providing localized data to an application operating on a computer system, the interface comprising computer readable program code devices for:

receiving a request for application data from an application;

determining if localized application values corresponding to the request are present in a cache structure of the computer system, the localized application values comprising values specific to a geographical area and language identified in the request;

when determined present, retrieving the localized application values from the cache;

when determined not present, retrieving the localized application values from an application value repository; and

returning retrieved localized application values to the application.

19. A computer readable medium containing a data structure for storing and providing current localized application values to one or more applications running in a geographically disburse computer network, the data structure comprising:

an application cache storing application combinations representing each combination of names of the running applications, geographical areas utilized in the computer network, and codes identifying languages supported within the computer network;

an element value cache storing element values comprising localized application values required by the running applications, wherein each of the element values comprises a localized value for a node in a tree structure in which each of the nodes corresponds to a combination of a geographical area, a supported language, and a staged or released value.

20. (canceled)

21. The data structure of claim 19, further including an application user cache storing user roles that indicate for users of the applications the localized application values the users can access based on the staged or released value.